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November, 1993

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Preview Issue

Inside information for dealers and collectors!

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Inside Information for Dealers and Collectors Special Preview Issue • November 1993 • A Vantage Publication

This is **Press Release Review**, the new publication available through all major distributors and in comic shops everywhere. The news releases reprinted in this issue are exactly as comic-related magazines receive them from the Publishers. By reading those actual releases, you are reading the most accurate, most up-to-date, and most complete news possible. Press releases are printed exactly as they are mailed or faxed to us, with the only exception being that phone numbers, addresses, and contact names are omitted. The purpose of Press Release Review is to better inform the average collector and dealer. Our popular **Vantage** investment newsletter, covering the future of the comic book marketplace, is now merged into Press Release Review. When you want to know what's really happening in comics, and you want to know where the market is really headed, turn to Press Release Review!

CREATOR-OWNED COMICS

Harry is a college student who remembers collecting comics as a kid. One day Harry grew weary of a long day of studying in the dorm and went for a drive. He came upon a little comic shop.

Yearning for the old days when things were simpler, he browsed around. Harry glanced over a copy of the comic he used to collect. Cute stuff.

Then, out of the corner of his eye, he noticed some more serious-looking stuff. He flipped through a creator-owned comic. It seemed more intellectual, more interesting to Harry than the other stuff. He bought it. He's hooked.

Harry is the future of comics, and two highly competitive companies have recognized this. Two new creator-owned imprints are hitting the comic world at the same time! One will be Legend, from Dark Horse. The other will be from Malibu.

These imprints are sure to bring us great new reading. People like Walt Simonson, John Byrne, Frank Miller, Paul Chadwick, Peter David, Marv Wolfman, and Jim Starlin will be involved. These are some of the best comic creators around today.

Without the worry that a company will claim ownership of their work, they can truly put their hearts into their creations. We can expect to see the very best in reading enjoyment. Retailers can expect some steady sales from high-quality creator-owned comics in the wake of an uneasy summer, comic fans can expect some good reading, and we can all expect at least a few back-issue jewels.

No, we don't claim another Image or Valiant to come of this. However, we can easily see a future market where some Legend and Malibu creator-owned books sit in dealer boxes with some pretty heafty price tags on them.

After a strange summer where many people over-ordered, new attention will be focused on high-quality creator-owned books. These are the back-issues that Harry will be searching for.

Top Picks of the Month

Doctor Chaos #2 (Triumphant)
Sin City: A Dame To Kill For #1 (Dark Horse)

VANTAGE INVESTMENT PICK

More Vantage Investment Picks

Vortex #2 (Dark Horse)
Defiant, all titles
Ninjak #1(Valiant)
X-O Manowar #25/Armorines #0 (Valiant)
Nova #1 (Marvel)
Exiles #4 (Ultraverse)
Ultraverse, all titles
The Creators Universe Trading Cards (Dynamic)
Dark Horse Comics Presents #51 (Dark Horse back-issue)
Knightquest: Search and Knightquest: Crusade (DC)
Doctor Chaos #1 (Triumphant)

Watch for the Vantage Star indicating our top picks!

"The above pick list is a guide based on research, advisors' opinions, and staff opinions - keep in mind that even the experts will disagree. 'Hot' comics can lose value after months or years. You would be wise to trade or sell books before they lose value. Read over the facts and opinions in Vantage, examine the pick list, and then make your own investment decisions. Remember: 1) There's no sure thing. Never bet the farm on any one book. 2) Comics may be fun to invest in, but they're even more fun to read! Open up one of those sealed polybags and give comics a try!"

- Publisher Rob Golub

Publisher, Rob Golub Creative Director, Tracy Willems. Art Director, Steve Reid. Editor, Steve Asvitt.

Special thanks to our advisors. Vantage Press Release Review is copyright (c) and TM 1993 by Rob Golub. All rights reserved. Published by Vantage. Member, Newsletter Publisher's Association (NPA). Vantage was founded to bring you more information and fairness. The average collector (as opposed to a large company) has been at a disadvantage for too long.

THE DEFIANT/TRIUMPHANT CROSS-OVER

Ladies and gentlemen!

Red Alert!

This is not a test!

Do we have your attention? Good. 'cause this is stuff you are definitely gonna want to know. **Vantage** is the proud owner of 100% **EXCLUSIVE** information on the **DEFIANT/ TRIUMPHANT CROSS-OVER!**

Only Vantage has managed to obtain the details on this incredible event from special inside sources! Only Vantage has learned that the first appearance of Defiant's War Dancer will be in Triumphant's Doctor Chaos #2! War Dancer will be getting his own Defiant title in early 1994!

That's right! The cross-over is common knowledge, but no one else but VANTAGE knows that the issue it happens in is Doctor Chaos #2!

Triumphant is the new cool universe which is expected by Vantage Advisors to have low print-runs. Few dealers are even aware of the cross-over, and NO-ONE but Vantage knows the details!

Doctor Chaos is this really weird guy. Strange things happen to him all the time. In fact, you could say the the entire theme of Doctor Chaos is, well, chaotic.

Here's how it all works. In **Doctor Chaos** #2 we'll see Doctor Chaos hanging out in a panel, doing whatever it is he's doing.

Next, for just a moment, the Triumphant universe and the Defiant universe will **merge.** We'll see a center-spread panel where Defiant's new War Dancer character appears. **THIS WILL BE THE FIRST CAMEO APPEARANCE OF WAR DANCER!**

The center-spread will feature War Dancer extending his arm to the left. In **Doctor Chaos** #1 another center-spread will show Doctor Chaos extending his arm to the right. Put a dozen different Triumphant center-spreads together to form a giant panel and you'll see Doctor Chaos and War Dancer shaking hands with all sorts of stuff happening around them.

That's right, the center-spread in #2 is actually just one portion of a giant panel (similar to **Solar** #1-10) that can be formed when you put several different Triumphant books together. However, only the center-spread in **Doctor Chaos** #2 features War Dancer and only the center-spread of **Doctor Chaos** #1 features part of War Dancer's hand.

The twelve comics that interlock are all part of the Triumphant Unleashed cross-over. Triumphant Unleashed is designed to introduce this enjoyable fantasy/science fiction universe which looks like it's going to be a great read. Vantage read the first few issues and enjoyed them greatly.

After the appearance of War Dancer in the center-spread of **Doctor Chaos** #2, Doctor Chaos will return to the Triumphant universe without War Dancer. He will react to his split-second meeting with surprise in the next panel. **This will establish the meeting as a part of the story, an important ingredient for back-issue value! This has the potential to be a truly major event!**

To top it off, the whole interlocking panel of center-spreads will be drawn by Alan Weiss, the same guy who is scheduled to draw War Dancer for Defiant in early 1994.

War Dancer will be a very powerful Solar-style character in the Defiant universe, so this event seems to fit in with his characterization nicely.

Vantage feels that we cannot over-emphasize the importance of War Dancer in the Defiant universe. Shooter: "War Dancer as it evolved became so critical to the universe. He's a character who's really a linch pin. War Dancer is the bridge between Plasm and Earth here and now. War Dancer is to Defiant as Solar, Man of the Atom was to Valiant when I was there."

The market is ripe for a strong reaction to the War Dancer cameo. Defiant is now established as a commodity that could go up, thanks to the Plasm Binder (which we predicted). At the same time, people are looking for something new to go up with the recent slow-down in other areas of the market.

Triumphant has decided NOT to make the details of this situation public. However, Vantage has learned these details from key inside sources. **Doctor Chaos** #2 is available for advance-ordering in early October.

Triumphant Logo and Dr. Chaos #1 cover artwork TM & © 1993 Triumphant Comics

THE TRIUMPHANT UNLEASHED CROSS-OVER

The First Month (November 1993):

Triumphant Unleashed #0, **Doctor Chaos** #1, **Prince Vandal** #1, **Riot Gear** #3, **Scavengers** #5, and **The Chromium Man** #4.

The Second Month (December 1993):

Doctor Chaos #2, **Prince Vandal** #2, **Riot Gear** #4, **Scavengers** #6, **The Chromium Man** #5, and **Triumphant Unleashed** #1.

Each of the above twelve books features one of the twelve center-spreads that together form the giant panel featuring War Dancer and Doctor Chaos. The giant panel fits into the story of ***Doctor Chaos*** *#2 where Defiant's War Dancer makes his first cameo appearance in the center-spread.* ***Doctor Chaos*** *#1 features the center-spread where Doctor Chaos appears, reaching out to shake War Dancer's hand.*

THE BREAK-THRU CROSS-OVER

In December, Malibu will push hard for publicity with its "Break-Thru" cross-over. To **Vantage**, it seems fitting that they've chosen to call the event "Break-Thru" since they seem so close and yet so far from breaking through that invisible barrier that separates collectibles from plain good reads.

It's clear that Malibu hopes Break-Thru will do for them what Unity did for Valiant. Their marketing plan is strong . . .

First off, the underpublicized prelude to Break-Thru is **Exiles** #4 . . . and the prelude to **Exiles** #4 is **Exiles** #3, where a character dies. **Exiles** #3 was an investment pick last issue. These books both have the potential to gain value.

In December we'll be introduced to Break-Thru by **Break-Thru** #1, a 40-page extravaganza penciled by the incomparable George Perez. The events leading up to the cross-over will involve madness and mayhem blanketing the globe as ordinary people commit bizarre and deadly crimes, and "everywhere there is a compulsion to seek the stars . . ."

The Ultraverse titles haven't been printed too heavily thus far. The Ultraverse #1s appear to be coming in at below 300,000 while subsequent issues are generally being ordered and printed at around 100,000 or less (for more on this see Vantage Quickies). If Break-Thru can generate enough interest, the limited quantity of Ultraverse back-issues available could do very well in the marketplace.

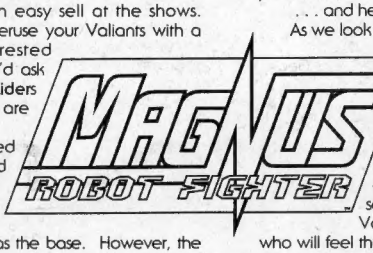
"Malibu hopes Break-Thru will do for them what Unity did for Valiant."

Break-Thru TM & © 1993 Malibu Comics Entertainment, Inc.

STATE OF THE MARKET REPORT

At first, most dealers and fans and ignored it. Some stores didn't even carry it. **Magnus, Robot Fighter?** Was that supposed to be for real? Oh yes, and how real it was.

Vantage can remember when $3.00 for a **Magnus** #1 was an easy sell at the shows. Customers would peruse your Valiants with a curious or disinterested glance. Then, they'd ask where the **Ghost Riders** were. Those days are long gone.



Valiant provided strong stories and strong art. A crafty ad campaign quickly built readership, with quality as the base. However, the real turning point was Unity. Readers jumped right on board with the Unity cross-over and the hunt was on.

The demand for Valiant took off like a rocket, and the speculators jumped on board too. Dealers were approached with questions like, "Do you have the second appearance of Solar's

second car's flat tire?" It was nuts.

Vantage saw the print runs flare up out of control. With **Bloodshot** #1's huge 600,000 print run, we backed away from Valiant. We knew that a fall was coming. In fact, that was the last #1 that we picked before the Valiant slow-down, and it was also the last #1 to gain value so far.

With the success of Bloodshot in spite of its large print run, Valiant appeared to be indestructible. Stores, dealers, and speculators turned in their advance-orders for a whopping 1.6 million **Turoks.** Disaster struck.

The customers showed up in the shops to buy 500,000 **Turoks**, 800,000 **Turoks**, heck, maybe even a million **Turoks.** One million, six hundred thousand? No way. The value of the book plummeted below cover. Panic followed.

The panic fed on itself and many recent Valiants (all of them with print runs approaching 300,000) fell to a dollar or less at the shows. Dealers were dumping everything they could. The market simply could not support the huge print runs.

. . . and here we are.

As we look to the future, a whole new marketplace begins to unfold. Valiant print runs will fall to reasonable levels. Our guess is that the average Valiant will fall from almost 300,000 advance-ordered to 100-200,000 advance-ordered. Valiant will sell to readers, not speculators. Valiant will lose some readers who will feel that the excitement is over and it's time to move on. Valiant's challenge will be to convince those readers that Valiant has not lost their magic.

Today, Valiant has a bright future. They'll put out a lot of low-print-run neat stuff, and every so often something will heat up and gain value. We expect that Valiant could shock the marketplace in the near future by coming out with a lower print-run, high-demand book. **Ninjak** #1? Maybe.

As for the rest of the marketplace, speculators will be nervous for some time. This is good, for comics will be ordered in lower quantities and print runs will remain low.

Magnus Robot Fighter TM & © 1993 Voyager Communications & Western Publishing Company, Inc.
Valiant Logo and related title logos Bloodshot, Eternal Warrior and Archer & Armstrong TM & © 1993 Voyager Communications

"Comics will be ordered in low quantities and print runs will remain low."

VALIANT GOES FOR A COME BACK!

Valiant is moving forward full-steam-ahead. In the wake of market contractions, Valiant is pushing hard to build excitement.

Armorines First Appearance

An **Armorines** #0 issue will be inserted into **X-O Manowar** #25, as a prelude to the new **Armorines** title. In fact, Vantage has learned from inside sources that the Armorines' first appearance and origin will be in this #0 insert.

You may have heard the rumor that a group called Steel Legions will be the Armorines. Sources at Valiant say this rumor is incorrect.

Back in **X-O Manowar** #19, Aric had been captured by the government. The government got a quick look at the "good skin" before Aric, who was still wearing the control ring, whisked the armor away. The government did have a few moments with the armor and this is how they will be able to craft the armor for the Armorines. Thus, #19 does tie in with the origin of the Armorines and it could go up.

The Armorines are Marines who wear X-O style armor. Also in #25, the Armorines will attempt to capture Aric's armor for further study. Vantage bets Aric will rip 'em to shreds.

Since the technology of the armor is so alien and the Feds had Aric's armor for only a short time, the Armorines' powers will be limited.

Ninjak and Quesada

Ninjak #1 should sell well thanks to mega-publicity, artwork by Quesada and Palmiotti, and a chromium wrap-around cover (like X-O #0). This team's artwork is fast becoming one of the hottest visual items in the nation.

Ninjak #1 *could* be under-ordered. People with extra recent Valiants sitting around will be reluctant to order heavily on anything Valiant, even something as hot as Ninjak #1. This can work in our favor.

Ninjak #1 could turn out to be the shot in the arm that Valiant needs. After 1.6 million **Turok** #1s, Vantage is curious to find out how many **Ninjak** #1s will be ordered in this new marketplace. There's no doubt that orders will be lower, but *how much lower?* We'll keep you posted.

Bloodshot

Speaking of Quesada, he'll be doing a wrap-around chromium cover for **Bloodshot** #0, coming out in December. This will contain Bloodshot's origin — the story of Angello Mortelli and the events that helped pave the way for him to become Bloodshot..

This event could focus some new attention on Bloodshot. Look for increased demand for **Bloodshot** #1.

Magnus and Nexus

In December Valiant will publish a two-issue mini-series where Nexus meets Magnus. This is the second Valiant/Dark Horse cross-over — the last one featured Magnus and Predator.

Look for increased interest in Nexus back-issues. Nexus has a small but loyal following that could see some growth thanks to this new publicity.

In **Magnus** #33 Ivar the Timewalker jumps into 4002 where he is pursued by Malevs who want the secret of time travel. Advance-orderers are not aware of this, but this story leads right into **Timewalker** #1, due out in early 1994.

"Advance-orderers are not aware of this, but this story leads right into Timewalker #1."

Armorines artwork TM & © 1993 Voyager Communications

VALIANT CONTINUES

Solar the Destroyer

The Solar the Destroyer story continues past #29-30 in #31 and beyond. Vantage expects this story to be popular. It could gain value.

The Valiant Era Trade Paperback

This December book will be a reprint of **Magnus** #12 (1st Turok), **Shadowman** #8 (1st Master Darque), **Solar** #10 & #11 (1st Eternal Warrior), and **Eternal Warrior** #4 &#5 (1st Caldone and 1st Bloodshot). A new eight-page comic comes with the book. The comic will contain the untold story of the Eternal Warrior and Harada, and the events leading up to **Solar** #10 and #11.

QUESADA AT VALIANT

Joe Quesada is the super-hot artist who is now joining Valiant as a regular. Previously, Quesada had been working for a variety of different companies on a piecemeal basis. Quesada's first project will be Ninjak.

"Joe began his comic career with us as a colorist, and has been working closely with us for some time," said Steve Massarsky, Valiant's Publisher.

"This is the next logical step in our relationship. We have always considered Joe to be a part of the Valiant family. In fact, when I was a practicing music attorney, Joe was one of my clients. The entire staff is ecstatic to be working with such a great creator."

In a way, this is a homecoming for Quesada who began his comics career in 1990 working for Valiant penciling and coloring. This opened the door for him to work at DC and Marvel. His first high-profile project was penciling **The Ray**, a six-part mini-series for DC.

More recently, Quesada has been working for all of the major companies doing covers and guest penciling spots. Other than **The Ray**, Quesada's projects have included **Sword of Azrael**, **X-Factor**, and covers for **Solar** and **X-O Manowar** #0.

Ninjak TM & © 1993 Voyager Communications

MALIBU STARTS CREATOR-OWNED!

Malibu is starting a new line of creater-owned comics called . . . well, as we go to press they don't know yet. The roster of creators currently signed up is very impressive: Walter Simonson, Jim Starlin, Peter David, Marv Wolfman, Norm Breyfogle, Dan Brereton, Steven Grant, Gil Kane, and Howard Chaykin!

This is a big deal. These are top-notch creators with excellent reputations, brought together by the company that pioneered this field by launching Image.

The first title will be out in January of 1994, by Jim Starlin (Warlock, Dreadstar, and Infinity Gauntlet). Starlin's work is always great reading, and it often does attract some attention from the market.

"Starlin's work is always great reading, and it often does attract some attention from the market."

Vantage will keep you posted on the details of this major event.

Malibu Logo TM & © 1993 Malibu Entertainment Group

VANTAGE QUICKIES

BATMAN AND SUPERMAN: These two guys have remained super-hot well beyond many dealers' expectations. Upcoming potential hits: **Action Comics** #695 (Lobo goes after Supes) & **LEGION '94** #62 (Leads into #695! This could be another **Green Lantern** #46! How sneaky!). Orders for all Supes books will remain low as dealers keep waiting for interest to wane .

Dealers largely ordered lower on bat-books coming our after **Batman** #500 for the same reason. However, interest remains high and back-issue value seems a real possibility for more recent bat-books. For example, while **Batman** #500 was ordered at a giant 1.5 million print run, dealers only ordered about 200,000 copies of **Justice League Task Force** #5 (Knightquest: The Search, part one) and about 340,000 copes of **Detective Comics** #667 (Knightquest: The Crusade, part one). Early issues of Knightquest: The Search and Knightquest: The Crusade look good.

SIN CITY: As we told you last issue, Dark Horse is sponsoring a new line of comics called "Legend". These will be creator-owned. This month, Frank Miller debuts with **Sin City: A Dame To Kill For**.

Vantage expects **Dark Horse Comics** #51, the first Sin City to gain value. Last issue we made #51 a pick. The print run on Miller's new Sin City series will be low, with speculators giving it little attention. Though not explosive, **Sin City: A Dame to Kill For** should enjoy slow and steady success in the market as a great read from one of the great comic-creators of all time.

CREATORS UNIVERSE TRADING CARDS: These will all be cards by hot artists, with each card showcasing a new character. The non-sport card industry is on the upswing and Vantage will be increasing coverage of this exciting field.

Many of these trading cards are being drawn by artists who are now scheduled to draw a creator-owned comic. Some of these creators are almost sure to have the sense to promote their new book by putting their new character on the card. Limited to 10,000 cases, these cards have the potential to do nicely.

ULTRAVERSE MAINTAINS HEAT: Thanks to low print runs and expert marketing, the Ultraverse has continued to maintain its heat. You will remember that Vantage was the only publication to list Ultraverse books as investment picks from the beginning.

Here's a sampling of some of our Ultraverse print run estimates: **Solution** #1, **Firearm** #1, **Exiles** #1: each about 100,000; **Prime** #2, **Hardcase** #2, **Strangers** #2: each about 65,000; **Prime** #4, **Prototype** #2, **Hardcase** #4: each about 75,000. <u>These are very low</u>.

Notice how #4s are higher than #2s! Usually #4s are about 50% lower than #2s! Clearly dealers are increasing their orders, many of them reporting to Vantage that they were taken by surprise by the popularity of the Ultraverse.

With the upcoming Break-Thru cross-over, Windsor-Smith joining up, the increased credibility that will come with the high-talent creator-owned imprint, and the fact that Ultraverse #1s are nowhere to be found at cover price, this one continues to look good.

What Ultraverse needs is a **Bloodshot** #6-style explosion to get the whole thing really moving. We hope they'll come up with something.

DEFIANT: This company still shows great future back-issue promise. Orders on **Good Guys** #1 should be relatively low since retailers, dealers, and other advance orderers have yet to see anything more than the first couple comics from Defiant.

The Good Guys card set could be under-ordered due to the whole Plasm controversy (As we told you last issue, Plasm card sales were hindered by the reprint of Plasm in Previews. This annoyed some dealers.).

Defiant says they have no plans to reprint any additional card sets in comic form. If you want to read **The Good Guys** #0, you'll have to buy the cards. That's a good thing.

Dark Dominion Artwork TM & © 1993 Enlightened Entertainment, Ltd.

VANTAGE QUICKIES

Daredevil TM & © 1993 Marvel Entertainment Group

MARVEL: As we predicted, the new Daredevil story has turned out to be one of the hottest Marvel items around in months. Marvel will be coming out with a second printing of #319 with the colors reversed. The buildings will be white instead of black, etc.

Nova has always been a popular character. The new **Nova** #1 could do well, while also shedding a new spotlight on the old **Nova** #1 (1st appearance and origin) from years ago.

LIGHTNING: Smaller publisher Lightning Comics has been attracting some attention with its promise to limit all print runs to 250,000. Lightning marketing people are also clearly savvy, somehow getting some support for Lightning from the "right" people in the industry.

EXPRESS PUBLICATIONS/ENTITY COMICS: **Super-hot** Jae Lee is now on board with this growing publisher. The world's first Jae Lee Chromium Cover will be wrapped around Zen Intergalactic Ninja All-New Color Special #0. This should be beautiful, and it should have some potential.

RANDY STRADLEY INTERVIEW

We sat down for a friendly chat with Randy Stradley, creative director at Dark Horse comics. Randy "oversees the ins and outs of the whole [Dark Horse] line." He managed to fit us into his busy schedule in-between editing and other stuff. Vantage has truly enjoyed reading Comics' Greatest World and we are looking forward to the Vortex series with great anticipation.

Randy said that the one dollar Comics' Greatest World books "have been phenomenally successful from my standpoint and I was pessimistic!" Randy was unsure of what kind of success the books would enjoy.

"The plan was to give our readers an inexpensive way to get in on the ground floor." Randy hopes to "capture some of the fun and excitement of some of the super-hero comics we read and enjoyed as kids."

Can we expect a giant Universe with fifteen titles and all the trimmings? "In the first year there will be four titles, one in each environment. Probably for the second year there'll be a second title for each environments." Clearly, Dark Horse will be building their Comics' Greatest World Universe slowly. From a market perspective, Vantage likes this. Too many publishers flood the market too quickly.

"Next year we may do it again," he said of the one dollar books. That's right, Dark Horse is considering another sixteen-week series next year!

The Vortex series: "The character who comes out of the Vortex eventually will be revealed as being responsible for most of the other characters having whatever abilities they have." Thus, the Vortex character will become a major character in the universe (1st appearance: **Vortex** - Week 4 of Vortex).

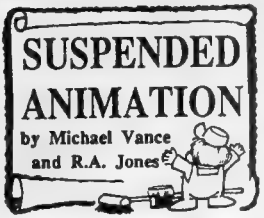
"The Vortex character will become a major character in the universe."

Randy on Legend: "Legend was all their idea. Frank [Miller] and John [Byrne] put it together and brought it to us and said here it is. They had talked about doing something similar last year and I think because there were a lot more people involved a consensus could never be reached!"

Randy insists that Legend is "not a company and it's not set up to be a shared universe. The Legend logo is their stamp of quality." The logo was drawn up by Mike Mignola.

"For at least the next two years it's a closed shop. There will be no new Legend members for the next two years. As Frank has said, we're not into empire building. It's just an association of certain creators who share ideas about quality."

COMICS ARE FOR READING FIRST!



Great, slavering jaws, a voracious appetite and massive bulk have made these antediluvian creatures a perennial favorite of kids. But until MOTHER-IN LAW COMICS are published, you'll have to endure dinosaurs instead.

Dinosaurs hold their own endurance record as kid favorites. And if one tyrannosaur is terrific, a park full of powerful lizards would be mind boggling, right?

Welcome to a boggled mind. If the trip to Skull Island...er, Isla Nublar, and the massive gates into the attraction remind you of a certain giant ape, you probably share Steven Spielberg's love for pre-historic adventure.

That feeling is obvious in the first of a four-issue adaptation of Spielberg's movie, **JURASSIC PARK**. Clean, straightforward writing and art add up to entertainment in this series that is full of excitement and surprises . . . NOT!

Gil Kane spells excitement. He's mastered anatomy and background, lighting and 'movement' through his art. The simplified style used here serves the story well instead of ignoring or destroying it with worthless artistic fireworks.

Walter Simonson is an outstanding artist and exciting wordsmith. As scripter on Jurassic Park, his lean style focuses on plot and adventure at the expense of in-depth characterization But that's appropriate. This isn't Hamlet Park.

But even without having seen the movie or read this comic, massive publicity has made *surprise* impossible. Everyone knows its premise.

Dinosaur blood was ingested by mosquitoes millions of years in the past. A few of those mosquitoes were trapped in amber. By the miracle of science, that blood is used to clone new dinosaurs. And big money and corporate greed make dinosaurs the next big theme park.

That's a neat idea. A ten-year-old can guess what follows. But originality was never Spielberg's strength. His strength lies in *how* a story is told. And nobody tells one better.

Predictably, the comic book holds no surprise twists. Even if you haven't been to the theater, the Big Moral seems obvious.

> *"But originality was never Spielberg's strength. His strength lies in how a story is told."*

One shouldn't try to fool Mother Nature.

But stop and think for a moment. Isn't the obvious even harder to make interesting?

JURASSIC PARK is more than interesting.

JURASSIC PARK #1 (of 4)/29 pages, published by Topps Comics/ available everywhere.

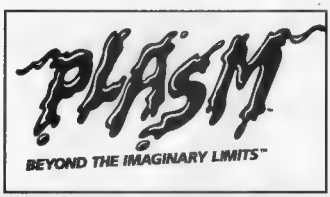
A growing number of people are discovering comics they'll enjoy reading. If you have a question or comments, or can't find a book reviewed, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: 1427 S. Delaware Ave, Tulsa OK 74104

WINNER: The Vantage Excellence in Reading Award: Plasm

VANTAGE READING PICK

Defiant's **Plasm** is a blast. We get to see a whole other world where everything is organic — machines, buildings, EVERYTHING. Living tissue is a commodity, used to build and create things. If you don't have enough living tissue to pay your debts then the bill collector will take *you*! If you like science fiction you'll love **Plasm**. Check it out.

Welcome to the **Vantage** "Excellence in Reading Award!" Our plan is to use this space to highlight the best in up-and-coming comic book reading! Winners will be chosen based on **Vantage** staff opinions and on YOUR letters! Let us know what you like to read!



DEATH
Comes to Life
All Month Long
VERTIGO
"I wish it could have gone on forever. I wish it didn't have to end like that.
"It always ends. That's what gives it value."
— DEATH: THE HIGH COST OF LIVING
DC presents a month-long celebration of Neil Gaiman's magnificently compelling creation Death, with the release of two awesome new items highlighted by the hardcover collection of the miniseries DEATH: THE HIGH COST OF LIVING. Backed by DC's well-earned reputation for quality, VERTIGO readers and others will find them as irresistibly alluring as Death herself.
The celebration begins with

OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

the all-new **DEATH T-SHIRT**, with an original illustration by Chris Bachalo (DEATH: THE HIGH COST OF LIVING, SHADE THE CHANGING MAN), featuring the haunting visage of one of the most popular characters in comics. This 100% black cotton T-shirt is available in Medium, Large, and Extra-Large sizes, and ships November 16. It retails for $14.95/$21.95 CAN. *Distributors are advised that orders to DC for this item must be made in quantities of 12.*

The first VERTIGO "gallery" book is the **DEATH GALLERY**, featuring 32 pages of all-new artwork by a variety of cutting-edge artists. **An introduction by Death-creator Neil Gaiman and a wrap-around cover with a metallic fifth color by Dave McKean** (cover artist of DEATH: THE HIGH COST OF LIVING and THE SANDMAN) set the mood for this beautiful pinup book. The DEATH GALLERY includes work by Chris Bachalo (2-page painted centerspread), Brian Bolland, Marc Hempel, Michael Kaluta, Dave McKean, P. Craig Russell, Jill Carla Schwarz, Jeff Smith, Gahan Wilson, Michael Zulli, and many others. The DEATH GALLERY ships November 23 and retails for $2.95.

DEATH: THE HIGH COST OF LIVING was the miniseries that told of how, once in a century, Death becomes mortal for a single day so she can touch life without taking it. Now Neil Gaiman's poignant tale is revisited in a beautiful hardcover book with an introduction by singer/songwriter Tori Amos. The moving art of Chris Bachalo and Mark Buckingham, embellished by Steve Oliff's stunning colors, are given new life with a cover, 4-color dust jacket and interior design by Dave McKean. DEATH: THE HIGH COST OF LIVING hardcover is 104 pages and ships November 30. It retails for $19.95.

The celebration concludes with the all-new DEATH WATCH, numbered and limited to 5000. Featuring the same original Chris Bachalo art as on the new DEATH T-SHIRT, this elegant black metal watch has a black leather wristband and a second hand in the shape of Death's ankh. DC's previous SANDMAN "DEATH" WATCH remains one of the most frequently-requested retail products, and with Death's popularity at an all-time high, no retailer will want to be caught short. The DEATH WATCH ships December 7 and retails for $49.95/$75.00 CAN. *Distributors are advised that orders to DC for this item must be made in quantities of 12.*

DC supports the DEATH: THE HIGH COST OF LIVING hardcover and the DEATH GALLERY with a 4-color promotional poster featuring Death and the Sandman, a die-cut black-and-white counter standup of Death featuring art by Chris Bachalo, and with house and trade ads.

OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

Gotham City, New Blood, and more in

SHOWCASE '94

A new year and a new series begin for SHOWCASE, with a new issue #1. Editor Neal Pozner has once again gathered some of the finest talent in the comics industry for another breathtaking year of exciting stories and stunning art, in a 12-issue maxiseries tightly interwoven with the rest of the DC Universe.

Each issue of SHOWCASE '94, like its popular predecessor SHOWCASE '93, features a full-length feature story followed by two shorter stories. And like last year's maxiseries, each feature will spotlight a member of the Batman mythos — with some stories drawing directly from the events of "Knightfall" and the ongoing "Knightquest" storyline. Issue #1 begins with the first of a 2-part Joker story by writer James Robinson (THE GOLDEN AGE) and artist Christian Alamy (LOBO ANNUAL #1), picking up after "Knightfall"'s Arkham breakout. Subsequent feature stories will spotlight the Penguin, Scarface, Robin, the Huntress, and others, with guest appearances by the Dark Knight himself.

Backup stories will star other members of the DC Universe, with special emphasis during the first part of the year on the New Blood from "Bloodlines." The first is a Gunfire 2-parter, showcasing the character from this year's DEATHSTROKE ANNUAL, written by Len Wein and pencilled by Thomas Tenney. This story sets the stage for an upcoming GUNFIRE ongoing series. Stories featuring other New Blood characters will lead into prominent appearances in other DC books. Other featured characters include the New Gods, Blue Beetle, and Bloodwynd.

Other writers for SHOWCASE '94 include Dennis O'Neil, Peter David, Doug Moench, Chuck Dixon, Alan Grant, John Wagner, and Walter Simonson. Among the artists lined up are Bo Hampton, George Freeman, José Luis García-López, and Teddy H. Kristiansen.

DC supports this project with a 4-color promotional poster pencilled by Joe Quesada, and with house and trade ads.

SHOWCASE '94 is a 12-issue maxiseries in the Standard Format, edited by Neal Pozner. Each issue is 48 pages and retails for $1.95. Issue #1 ships November 30.

OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

SHIPPING

NOVEMBER 30

The Children's Crusade #2 (of 2)

VERTIGO

3.95
(W) Gaiman/Kwitney (A) Snejbjerg
(C) Totleben
Painted cover by John Totleben.
Suggested for mature readers. 64 pages.
New Format.

THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE, the monumental VERTIGO Annuals event, concludes in a story co-written by DEATH: THE HIGH COST OF LIVING author Neil Gaiman and VERTIGO VISIONS: THE PHANTOM STRANGER writer Alisa Kwitney. The plans of the strange children of Free Country reach fruition, as the fate of that mystical land is decided. The children of the VERTIGO titles all will be changed by their experiences...and one will not return. This final chapter of THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE features the striking art of European artist Peter Snejbjerg (*Tarzan*), with a painted cover by John Totleben (SWAMP THING, *Miracleman, 1963*) **As announced in December COMING COMICS, DC supports this VERTIGO Annuals event with a 4-color promotional poster, window signs, a dossier of the principal characters, co-op ad slicks, and with house and trade ads.**

Detective Comics #670

1.50*
(W) Dixon (P) Kitson
(I) Hanna (C) K. Jones
Standard Format.

"Knightquest: The Crusade," featuring the adventures of the new Batman, continues: René Montoya is spotlighted as she finds herself on a deadly collision course with a Batman more ruthless than the one she knew before

Death: The High Cost of Living hardcover

VERTIGO

19.95
(W) Gaiman (P) Bachalo (I) Buckingham
(C) McKean
Cover and interior design by Dave McKean.
Suggested for mature readers. 104 pages.
Hardcover book.

Neil Gaiman's haunting, poignant tale of Death's day as a mortal is represented in this beautiful hardcover book, with an introduction by singer/songwriter Tori Amos. Chris Bachalo and Mark Buckingham's memorable illustrations, enhancad by Steve Oliff's stunning colors, are given new life in a hardcover designed by Dave McKean, cover artist of THE SANDMAN and the DEATH: THE HIGH COST OF LIVING miniseries. This edition also features a 4-color dust jacket designed by McKean. **DC supports this project and the DEATH GALLERY with a 4-color promotional poster featuring Death and the Sandman, a die-cut black-and-white counter standup of Death with art by Chris Bachalo, and with house and trade ads. Tying into this project are the new DEATH WATCH and the new DEATH T-SHIRT. For more information, see the feature article and individual listings.**

Eclipso #15

1.50
(W) Fleming (P) Newman (I) Kryssing
(C) Newman/Kryssing
Standard Format.

After their most recent attempt to destroy Eclipso, Bruce Gordon, Mona Bennet , and Amanda Waller stand trial for invading Parador. Now the courts may succeed in doing to them what the God of Vengeance has been unable — or unwilling — to do all along.

Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy #3 (of 3)

4.95
(W) Carnell (P) Leialoha (I) various
(C) Leialoha/Fastner
48 pages. Prestige Format.

On the planet Magrathea, Arthur and his companions learn the origin of the Earth and the part played by mice in the search for the answer to life, the universe, and everything.

Justice League Task Force #8

1.50
(W) David (P) Velluto (I) Albrecht
(C) Velluto/Albrecht
Standard Format.

Fan-favorite writer Peter David's 2-part JUSTICE LEAGUE TASK FORCE adventure concludes: Having rescued the captive passengers of a crashed airplane, the Martian Manhunter and his all-female Task Force must escape through the jungle while savage Amazons pursue them.

L.E.G.I.O.N. '94 #62

1.75
(W) Peyer (P) S. Jones
(I) Stokes (C) Kitson
New Format.

Lobo finds out Superman is alive (but doesn't encounter him until ACTION COMICS #695) and sets off to drop in on him, leading to a big clash in ACTION COMICS. Meanwhile, the mystery of Dox and Stealth's child is revealed, as the super-intelligent infant tries to patch things up between his feuding parents. Plus, the R.E.C.R.U.I.T.S are joined by a new member.

OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

The Newlin Company, Inc.

FOR: **CONTACT:** **NEWS RELEASE**

NEWS RELEASE:

GOLIATH MARVEL FILES LAWSUIT AGAINST DEFIANT DAVID

-- Eleventh Hour Attempt to Stop Fast Start of Comic Rival --

NEW YORK, Aug. 2 -- A lawsuit charging trademark infringement was filed today in United States District Court, Southern District in Manhattan by **Marvel Comics Limited**, part of the Marvel entertainment empire, against **DEFIANT**, the six-month-old start-up comic brainchild of **Jim Shooter**, the former editor-in-chief of **Marvel**. **Shooter**, 41, last locked horns with **Marvel's** current chairman, **Ronald Perelman**, in 1988 when both Shooter and Perelman were suitors for the company. Today's lawsuit seeks a preliminary injunction on an expedited basis, which could result in a judge's decision within two weeks.

Marvel's suit maintains that the name **WARRIORS OF PLASM™** infringes on its alleged trademark rights, first claimed in the United Kingdom for a character, Plasmer. The comic book series which features the character has not appeared and is not expected to appear in this country until late September. In June, **DEFIANT** responded to Marvel's concerns by changing the name of its series from **PLASM™** to **WARRIORS OF PLASM™**, as part of what Shooter termed at the time a "gentlemanly resolution" of the issue.

(more)

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In July the series' title changed from PLASM to **WARRIORS OF PLASM™**, as part of a proposed "gentlemanly resolution" of a threatened legal action from Marvel Comics for trademark infringement. Marvel Comics felt that the PLASM title was too similar to its "Plasmer" character. Despite that effort, Marvel filed a lawsuit yesterday in the United States District Court, for the Southern District of New York, seeking a preliminary injunction on an expedited basis, which could result in a judge's decision within two weeks.

-- Off To Fast Start: Storytelling and Innovation Designed to Grow the Market --

DEFIANT is off to a fast start, based on **Shooter's** two-fold dedication to the storyteller's art and industry innovation coupled with his passion to serve and expand the marketplace. The first example of this approach was **DEFIANT's** decision to license The River Group to launch **WARRIORS OF PLASM ZERO ISSUE™ Trading Card Set**, which marked the first time that a comics universe was introduced via trading cards.

Next, beginning last month and continuing through October 15, **DEFIANT** is searching the country for seven children to populate **THE GOOD GUYS™ series,** which first arrives in stores in November. In June **Shooter** launched a continuing series of ***How to Create Comics*** seminars for would-be comic book writers, creators, and cartoonists. Begun in **Anaheim** and **Nashville**, the seminars will arrive next in **San Diego** (August 21) and **Philadelphia** (October 9).

(more)

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WILD COUPON, THE SOLUTION #0
Join RUNE #0 Offer

This October, look for Barry Windsor-Smith in the Ultraverse. He has joined Malibu Editor-In-Chief Chris Ulm, in creating the hottest Ultra-book so far, *Rune* #0.

Rune is more than just a new Ultraverse book. It comes complete with its own special program, initially appearing as a series of three-page interconnected stories in all eleven of the Ultraverse titles coming out in October. All eleven stories put together will make up a 33-page introduction to the regular series. "We wanted to do it this way to give fans a sneak peek at *Rune*, Barry Windsor-Smith and the possibilities for the Ultraverse in the new year," said John Riley, Malibu's Sales and Marketing Director.

As always with Malibu, there's more. The 33-page introduction will be offered as a *Rune* #0 collection. "We also thought it would be nice," said Riley, "to offer the fans the entire story in one bound volume."

There is only one way to get this item from Malibu. Each October Ultraverse title will come complete with a serialized coupon. Serialized coupons are special because they do not have to be cut out of the book. "There's probably nothing a fan hates to do more than mutilate a brand new book," said Riley; "We don't like it anymore than they do, so we implemented the serial number approach. This way they can just photocopy their coupon and send in its copy without having to cut anything or buy anything extra." As the coupons come in, the serial numbers on each coupon will be documented. Any duplicate copies will be spotted and voided. Collect all eleven titles, mail in the copies or the originals of the coupons to Malibu and receive your free copy of *Rune* #0.

Along with the *Rune* #0, Malibu will also send a companion book, *Solution* #0. "We wondered: 'what could we do to make this even more

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special?'" Riley said, "So we're offering another Ultraverse #0 as well." This is a unique opportunity for Ultraverse fans to learn about characters' histories. "Number zero books are significant because fans can find out aspects of the characters lives that ultimately are important to the future developments of the series," said Riley.

In addition to all this, Malibu is giving fans a short cut in the coupon collecting. The September *ULTRA-Monthly* will feature a Wild Coupon to help out in the quest to obtain *Rune #0* and *The Solution #0*. "We recognize that collecting all 11 titles is not an easy task," said Riley, "so we offer the Wild Coupon to replace one--but only one--of the 11 title coupons."

As a result, after buying 11 of the October Ultraverse titles (or 10 titles and one *ULTRA-Monthly)* and sending in all 11 coupons to Malibu, fans will be able to add 11 Ultraverse titles, each with a 3-page *Rune* back-up story and one each of *Rune* #0 and *The Solution* #0 to their collections.

It comes to a total of 13 collectables in all. "Basically, at Malibu we like to feel that when we do something, we do it better than anyone expects," said Riley, "and this is one of the best opportunities we've offered so far!"

###

The collecting starts in October. Malibu is not responsible for shipping and handling.

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JIM STARLIN Signs With Malibu Comics! 'BREED To Debut In January 1994!

Jim Starlin, one of the industry's leading talents, has signed with Malibu Comics to both write and draw his latest series, *'Breed*. Starlin joins Malibu's line of creator-owned comics that is scheduled to debut in January 1994.

"*'Breed* is the story of a man who discovers he's half-human-half-demon and how he deals with his heritage," Starlin said. "Working in this horror/adventure genre allows me to explore some rather disturbing territory I've never before ventured into."

'Breed is three sets of 6-issue mini-series that were originally designed as graphic novels.

"Starlin has a tremendous track record of best-selling titles that have made him a fan favorite," said Malibu Creative Director Tom Mason, who is editing the series. Starlin's work includes *Warlock*, *Dreadstar* and *The Infinity Gauntlet*. "With a creator like Starlin," Mason continued, "fans can expect great art and strong stories. Retailers can expect to see a commitment to promotion, marketing and on-time shipping of these creator-owned titles."

# # #

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NOVEMBER 1993

IMPORTANT INFORMATION About the *Triumphant Unleashed* Crossover

The *Triumphant Unleashed* crossover will be TRIUMPHANT's first major crossover event and will involve all of its titles published in November and December of 1993. This crossover will feature the debut of two new ongoing monthly titles and will be an integral part of the ongoing TRIUMPHANT storyline. Several concepts are being tied together to make this event special, including interlocking front covers, interlocking back covers, a special interlocking centerspread poster, and more.

ABOUT THE TRIUMPHANT UNLEASHED STORY . . .

The Triumphant Unleashed story will involve all the TRIUMPHANT characters as a natural progression of the TRIUMPHANT universe's continuity. The story revolves around events that happened in the past and reveals the way in which Doctor Chaos and the other residents of PATHOS manipulate events in the universe.

"The Triumphant Unleashed crossover is an important landmark in TRIUMPHANT history. Within this crossover, the essential nature of the TRIUMPHANT universe and the meaning of the cameo appearances of Doctor Chaos and Mr. Death will be revealed. Although each issue is a story unto itself, the whole picture painted across these issues covers a history of over 250 years playing itself out to a single decisive moment engineered by Doctor Chaos. The history of this very real fictional universe is about to unfold," says Adam Post, President of Triumphant.

ABOUT THE TITLES INVOLVED . . .

The first month of the *Triumphant Unleashed* crossover is November 1993. The titles are: *Triumphant Unleashed* #0, *Doctor Chaos* #1, *Prince Vandal* #1, *Riot Gear* #3, *Scavengers* #5, and *The Chromium Man* #4. The second month of *Triumphant Unleashed* is December 1993. The titles are: *Doctor Chaos* #2, *Prince Vandal* #2, *Riot Gear* #4, *Scavengers* #6, *The Chromium Man* #5, and *Triumphant Unleashed* #1.

"You'll notice there are no chapter numbers on our books. The books in the crossover will feature a special extra Triumphant Unleashed logo. These comics stand alone as enjoyable reading and you don't have to buy each one to appreciate any single one. The crossover will make sense to everybody. We have a regular policy of having self-contained enjoyable stories in each of our comics. Anyone who buys a TRIUMPHANT comic will get a great story with great art that is a part of an enormous interwoven tapestry of literature," says Publisher Eric Shefferman.

ABOUT TRIUMPHANT UNLEASHED #0 . . .

Triumphant Unleashed #0 will be a 32-page comic, with 16 pages of story and art and eight pages of additional text and art about the TRIUMPHANT universe. There will also be a 16-page giveaway format shipping free to retailers as a thank you to those who supported our line early on. TRIUMPHANT expects to ship between 30,000 - 50,000 giveaway copies free to retailers.

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VALIANT COMICS NOVEMBER 1993 SOLICITATION

November is the SECOND ANNUAL VALIANT COMICS MONTH, and to celebrate, VALIANT has scheduled a powerful line-up of sure-fire hits. Included in this month's schedule is the premiere of the long-anticipated NINJAK series featuring the art of superstars JOE QUESADA and JIMMY PALMIOTTI; X-O MANOWAR #25/ARMORINES #0, marking the origin of VALIANT's newest team; the NEW HARBINGERS #26 with an exciting change of direction for the title; ETERNAL WARRIOR #19 guest starring DOCTOR MIRAGE; and MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER #33 with the return of IVAR!

NOVEMBER SPOTLIGHT ON:

NINJAK™ #1
By Mark Moretti, Joe Quesada and Jimmy Palmiotti
$3.50/$4.50 Canadian

Incredible Premiere Issue! Ninjak finds himself trapped in the middle of a bloody war between the Weaponeer and the insidious Dr. Silk's WEBNET organization. Can Ninjak foresee every contingency to survive this deadly gambit? This issue also features a full wraparound chromium cover (á la *X-O Manowar #0*) by series artists Joe Quesada and Jimmy Palmiotti. This is a scorching hot book you can't afford to miss!

X-O MANOWAR™ #25/ARMORINES #0
By Jorge González, Paris Karounos and Tom Ryder
$3.50/$4.50 Canadian • Shipping from Sparta

The U.S. Government makes another try for the X-O armor, pitting their newest weapons - the ARMORINES - against X-O Manowar. Inserted in the center of this special issue is the 16-page ARMORINES #0 by Jorge González and Jim Calafiore, telling the origin of VALIANT's newest team.

The NEW HARBINGERS™ #26
By Maurice Fontenot, Sean Chen, Andrew Wendel and Maria Beccari
$2.50/$3.15 Canadian • Shipping from Sparta

In the aftermath of last issue's Earth-shattering conclusion, a new Harbinger Foundation is born from the ashes of the old. Can this new group of young heroes overcome their differences and hatreds to survive their first real test? New series artist **Sean Chen**, known to fans for his strong work on *Rai and the Future Force*, takes over the pencilling chores, with Bob Layton's latest protégé, **Andrew Wendel**, providing solid support as regular inker. Beginning a new chapter in VALIANT history, this is a great place for new readers to jump on board and experience VALIANT.

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VALIANT COMICS
DECEMBER 1993 SOLICITATION

DECEMBER SPOTLIGHT ON:

BLOODSHOT™ #0
By Kevin Vanhook, Dick Giordano and Joe Quesada
$3.50/$4.60 Canadian • Special Issue

This is it! Bloodshot's ORIGIN--the story of Angelo Mortelli and the events that helped pave the way for him to become Bloodshot, including his first fatal encounter with the Eternal Warrior. Written and illustrated by Kevin VanHook, with inks by comics legend and former VP/Editorial Director for DC comics, Dick Giordano! This one's guaranteed to be a classic! This VALIANT #0 issue also features a stunning, full wraparound chromium cover by fan favorite Joe Quesada.

MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER™/NEXUS™ #1 (Of 2)
By Mike Baron and Steve Rude with Gary Martin
$2.95/$3.90 Canadian • Two-Part Crossover

An alien being comes to North Am offering its citizens peace and prosperity, but at what price? Mike Baron and Steve Rude craft a tale on the cutting edge of science fiction that will have all comic fans talking about this newest VALIANT.DARK HORSE crossover! Sporting a fully-painted cover by Steve Rude on stiff stock. This is the most asked about cross-over series yet--From both Dark Horse and Valiant fans alike! NOTE: This story takes place BEFORE Magnus #1 from VALIANT!

VALIANT ERA TRADE PAPERBACK - VOLUME 1
$13.95/$18.40 Canadian

BECAUSE YOU DEMANDED IT! This special volume collects SIX of the most sought after stories from across the VALIANT universe! These books have sky-rocketed in value since their release and continue to be the hottest stories around!

Magnus #12--1st. Turok
Shadowman #8--1st Master Darque
Solar #10 & 11--1st Eternal Warrior
Eternal Warrior #4 & 5--1st Caldone, 1st Full Bloodshot appearance

Packaged with this trade paperback will be a special 8-page comic with a stiff wraparound cover entitled ***The VALIANT Era Special Edition***." With all new story and art by Kevin VanHook and Mark Moretti, this book contains the untold story of the Eternal Warrior and Harada, and the events which lead up to Solar #10 & #11.

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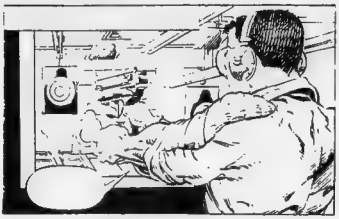

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PRESS RELEASE

ENTITY COMICS PRESS RELEASE

Chesapeake, VA 23320

FOR IMMEDIATE USE

JAE LEE CHROMIUM COVER ON ZEN INTERGALACTIC NINJA #0

The world's first Chromium cover by fan favorite Jae Lee will be featured on ZEN INTERGALACTIC NINJA #0, available in December.

The all-new color title, published by Entity Comics, will utilize the same process found on Valiant's BLOODSHOT #1, TUROK #1, and X-O #0.

"We're very excited about this event," said Entity Publisher Don Chin. "Combining the art of one of the comic industry's hottest talents, Jae Lee, with the patented Chromium technology will make ZEN #0 an instant collector's item. We anticipate a huge demand for this book."

ZEN INTERGALACTIC NINJA #0 will be Entity's first ZEN color comic; the company currently publishes the best-selling ZEN monthly black-and-white comic.

"Not only are we launching this book with a spectacular cover, but there's an all-new ZEN origin inside. ZEN co-creator Steve Stern is writing it, and the art is by Tatsuya Ishida, whom COMIC SHOP NEWS calls 'a real find.' Ishida, in my opinion, is one of comicdom's brightest new stars, and we're proud to showcase his artwork in this special book," said Chin.

ZEN INTERGALACTIC NINJA #0 will be published this December, with 32 color pages. The retail price is $3.50.

#

OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

THE WORLD'S FIRST

JAE LEE

CHROMIUM™

COVER!

ZEN INTERGALACTIC NINJA

ENTITY COMICS

ALL-NEW ISSUE #0 IN COLOR... COMING IN DECEMBER!

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VANTAGE™

Information for the Serious Comic Book Investor

SOLICITATION
FOR JANUARY 1994 SHIPPING

IMPORTANT: This is a new first issue which will be accompanied by a major promotional launch! Please note the following important marketing information:

1) **Press Release Review** #1 will be supported by FULL COLOR ads in Previews and Advance Comics as well as by extensive additional advertising in other trade publications!

2) 10,000 ashcan editions will be printed and distributed to every retailer in North America and at Comicfest '94!

3) We have a highly-targeted market niche and a highly-specialized product designed to address that market's needs! Join us in the excitement of this event!

4) Full permission and support has been secured from major publishers regarding the reprint of their press releases!

Below is a descriptive paragraph:

Press Release Review #1
$4.95 USA/$6.50 Canada/64 pgs/full color cover/b&w interior/comic-sized
Press Release Review is the new monthly sixty-four page magazine for dealers and collectors! Inside information about the marketplace, the business of comics, and the future plans of comic and non-sports card publishers is covered in every monthly issue! Each issue comes jam-packed with publisher press releases on publisher letterhead, sample art pages, and special announcements direct from the publishers! That's right -- *for the first time ever* you can now find out what's happening in comics direct from the comic publishers themselves! Due to the extreme popularity of the **Vantage** investment guide, it has now been merged into **Press Release Review**! Every issue of **Press Release Review** will bring you the same great market info and reading picks that the Vantage newsletter always did! This means our famous **Vantage** investment pick list will also be included in the magazine -- this list has included past hits like **Bloodshot #6, Knightfall #11,** and **X-O Manowar #14**! What will the Vantage investment guide predict next? This issue of **Press Release Review** comes with an Ultraverse cover and a beautiful rainbow-foil enhancement! **Press Release Review** will NOT be bagged, to give store-customers a chance to see what this high-quality product is all about!

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VANTAGE™

Information for the Serious Comic Book Investor

AWESOME NEW MAGAZINE LAUNCH: PRESS RELEASE REVIEW!

Vantage is launching a new sixty-four page magazine for dealers and collectors, called Press Release Review. The launch is supported by full color ads in Previews and Advance Comics, additional heavy advertising in other publications, and free samples distributed to retailers all over the world.

Each issue of Press Release Review will contain dozens of press releases direct from comic publishers. For the first time ever, comic fans and dealers will get to find out what's really happening in comics, straight from the publishers themselves.

The popular Vantage newsletter is being merged into Press Release Review, to give the magazine a built-in fan-following from the beginning. Thus, every issue of Press Release Review will include Vantage Investment Picks and Vantage Reading Picks.

Press Release Review will be designed to assist dealers who need to keep a close watch on the business of comics while also allowing mature collectors to take a peek at what happens behind the scenes in the industry.

The first issue is scheduled to ship to retailers in January 1994. It will have a $4.95(USA)/$6.50(CAN) cover price and it will be available through all major distributors and comic shops.

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Congratulations
on your new beginning...

Inside information for dealers and collectors!

Original Art!

Back Issues

from **Scott Eder**

9 Sedgemere Rd., Center Moriches, NY 11934
516-878-3023

Inside information for dealers and collectors!

First Issue Due Out January, 1994

LOGO SHEET

VANTAGE
PRESS RELEASE
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Inside information for dealers and collectors!

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Publishers: Help us to Help You!

No matter how big or small your comic or card publishing company is, we need your press releases and upcoming artwork. Our target market is your target market, so send us everything! While any method is acceptable, the following tips will make your press releases or information MOST usable: 1) Send us the information on company letterhead. 2) Include a statement granting us permission to reprint all press releases and solicitations. 3) Include photocopies or camera-ready copies of artwork without headlines, advertising, etc. 4) Make the information as new and fresh as possible. Let us know if you are giving us a "scoop." Exclusives or early news will be given very special attention. 5) Do not include information that is meant for retailers only (e.g., one gold copy for every 50 copies of your product ordered).

THE POPULAR VANTAGE™ NEWSLETTER

has now been merged into

PRESS RELEASE

R·E·V·I·E·W

PAST VANTAGE PICKS:

SHADOWMAN #16!
BLOODSHOT #6!
DARK HORSE COMICS #8
X-O MANOWAR #14
KNIGHTFALL #11 (BM #492)!
THE PLASM ALBUM!

WHAT WILL VANTAGE PICK NEXT???